

**A**t some of our local and state meetings I keep hearing about people not having enough time to support all the events and seminars we have these days. I began thinking about when I started at Winter Pines and the events we had to choose from in 1979. Besides the

annual GCSAA Conference and Show, there was the FTGA Conference and Show, the Poa Annuia Classic, the Crowfoot Open, our monthly chapter meetings and not much else. If you attended all these, you could be gone from work about 20 days. Even if you

added in vacation and comp days for personal use, it still wasn't too bad.

At our recent strategic planning session we held in conjunction with our fall Board meeting, the issue of member support and attendance of the various educational and fund-raising events came under discussion. We discussed better chapter communications and promoting each others' events to help increase participation.

After lunch, Joel Jackson took a page off one of the big flip charts and started listing all the conferences, trade shows, seminars, meetings,

tournaments and fund-raisers that are available to attend. If you took advantage of every opportunity, you could be gone close to 40 days. By now adding in your vacation time and personal days, you find it hard to justify being away from work so much.

I think every chapter now has some type of tournament or fund-raiser that provides moneys for turf research, scholarships, Audubon programs for schools, and other worthwhile causes. Every chapter does a great job and should be proud of its accomplishments and contributions. They all need to keep up the good work. I only know that nowadays I have to be careful about what I choose to attend and I plan accordingly.

I failed to mention what all this costs each year. Fees and registration varies by event. Some of the costs are picked up by the club and some are paid by the superintendent himself, but it is a factor nevertheless.

Time for family and job come first. Education is next at local, state, and national levels. If you can combine education and golf, then the time spent is sometimes easier to justify. Please try to support what you can, when you can, and we will all benefit for years to come.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and continued success in the new year!

## Where Does the Time Go?

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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